Grown Up Digital

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To read a book that is based off your generation is a moment when you wake up and realize what all you are doing for the world. It also shows how much the world has changed over the course of 29 years of existence. *Grown Up Digital* starts off with an introduction to why he decided to write this book. Don Tapscott had previously written *Growing Up Digital and “*inspiration for the book came from watching my two children use complex technologies like computers, video games, and VCRs with seemingly no effort”(Tapscott, 2009). It’s hard to imagine that he was talking about VCRS and those aren’t really in existence anymore.

He also talks about the issues that older generation have with the “Net Generation” as he refers to us. Those issues include from “they are dumber than we were at that age” (Tapscott, 2009) to “they just don’t give a dam” (Tapscott, 2009). He then makes points about each of the issues that people are seeing with my generation. The most hooking part was when he introduced each of the generations. “The Baby Boomers (1946-64), Gen-X (1965-76), Gen Y (1977-97), and Generation Next (1998-present)” (Tapscott, 2009). “When researching *Growing Up Digital*, I decided to name the Echo Generation by their defining characteristics. Today, some people call them the Millennials, but the advent of the year 2000 didn’t really alter the experience of the young people of the time. I suppose we could call them “Generation Y”, but naming them as an afterthought to the smaller Gen X diminishes their importance in the big scheme of things” (Tapscott, 2009).

The book continues to talk about all the things that have come about since the beginning of the Net Gen. From the beginnings of the Internet to Facebook and MySpace, this generation has seen many different technologies transform. Don Tapscott talks about “The Eight Net Generation Norms” (pg. 34). “They want *freedom* in everything they do, from freedom of choice to freedom of expression” to “The Net Gen wants *entertainment* *and play* in their work, education, and social life” (Tapscott, 2009). These are the norms of my life and the students I teach every day.

The book continues to talk about all eight norms that our generation has defined. This generation has helped to change the world as we speak from the way interact with one another to the way we educate our children. “As we enter the new age, the future won’t just happen. It will be created- and primarily by them. Through their massive demographic muscle and unconstrained minds, they are creating a new world. For better or for worse, the biggest generation in American history is beginning to use its medium to discover, debate, and take action” (Tapscott, 2009).

**Reference List**

Don Tapscott (2009). *Grown Up Digital*. New York, NY: McGraw-Hill.